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Nagai et al.

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(54) **ELECTROMAGNETIC RESONANCE
COUPLER**

USPC 333/219, 219.1, 202, 204, 24 C, 24 R;
310/320

See application file for complete search history.

(71) Applicant: **Panasonic Corporation**, Osaka (JP)

(72) Inventors: **Shuichi Nagai**, Osaka (JP); **Susumu
Maruno**, Kyoto (JP)

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Primary Examiner — Dean Takaoka

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Wenderoth, Lind & Ponack,
L.L.P.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An electromagnetic resonance coupler includes: a transmitting resonator provided on a transmission substrate and having an open loop shape having an opening, first wiring provided on the transmission substrate and connected to a first connection point on the transmitting resonator, a receiving resonator provided on a reception substrate, second wiring provided on the reception substrate and connected to a second connection point on the receiving resonator, and third wiring provided on the reception substrate and connected to a third connection point on the receiving resonator. When viewed in a direction perpendicular to a main surface of the transmission substrate, the transmission substrate and the reception substrate face each other so that the transmitting resonator and the receiving resonator are symmetric about a point and have matching contours.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

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H03H 7/48 (2006.01)

(Continued)

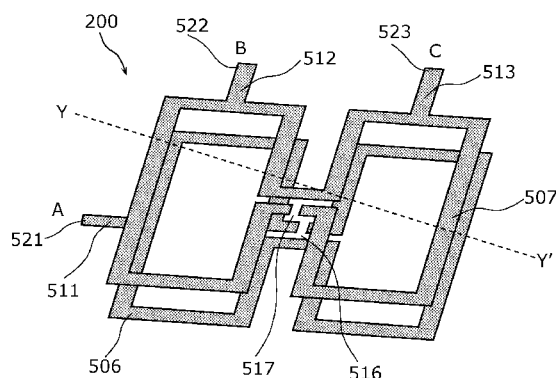
(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H03H 7/48** (2013.01); **H01F 38/14**
(2013.01); **H01P 5/028** (2013.01); **H01P 5/222**
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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8 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

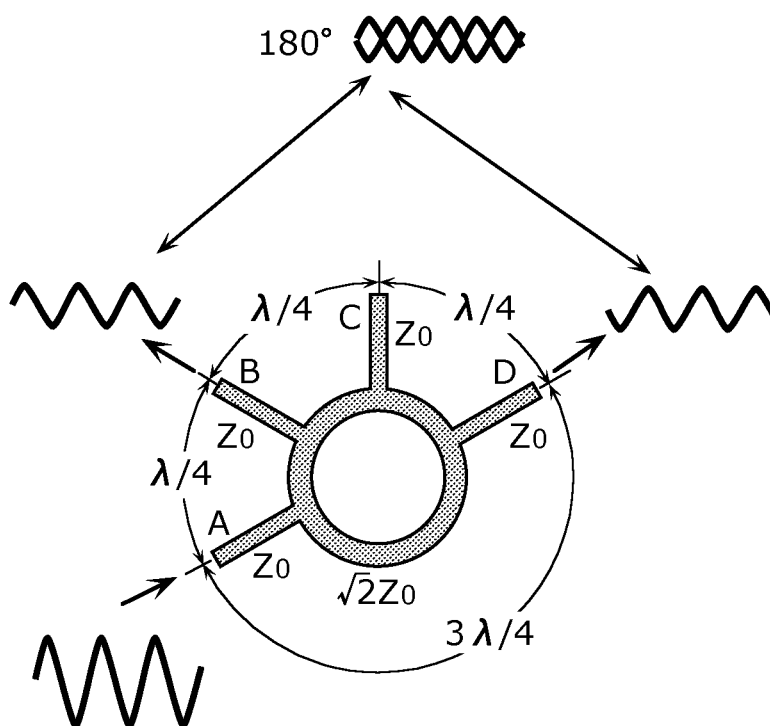


FIG. 2

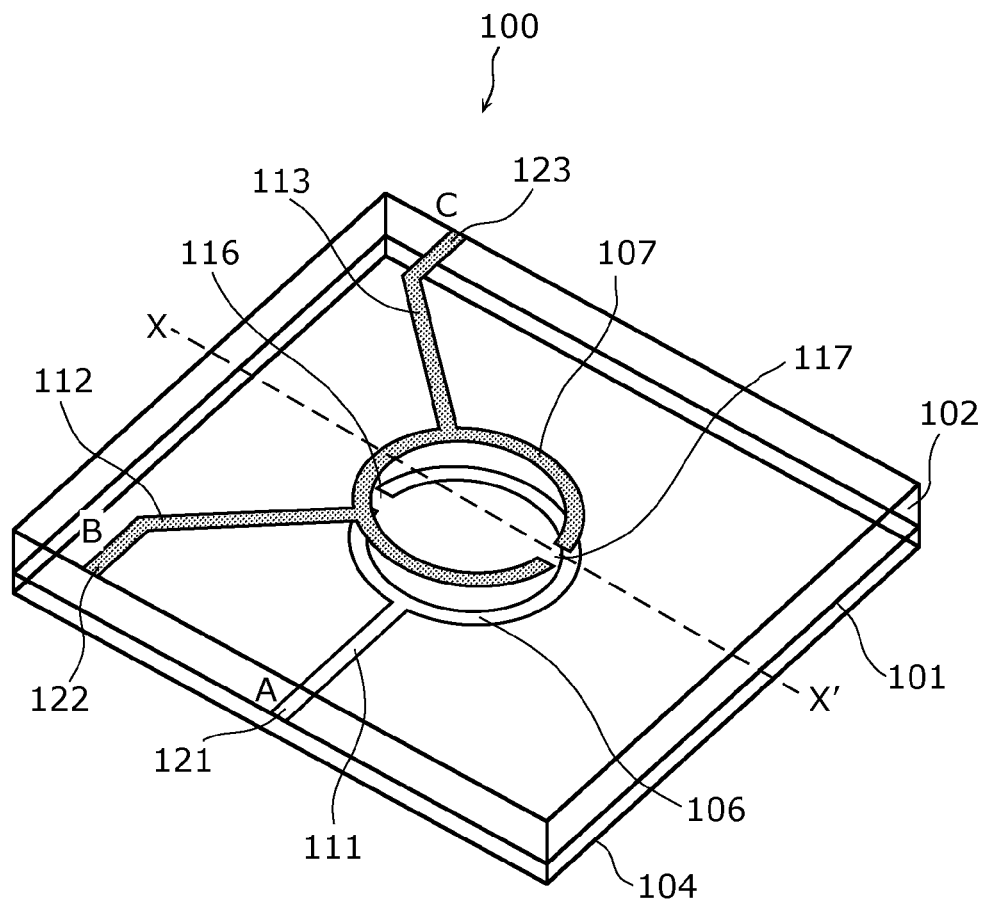


FIG. 3

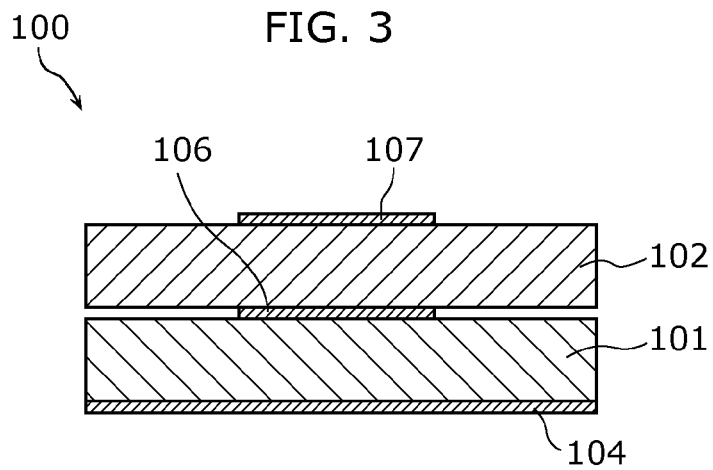


FIG. 4

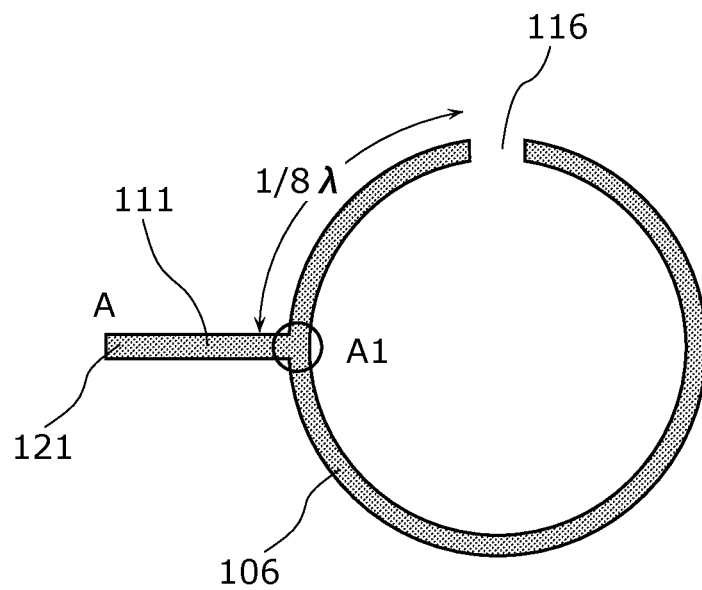


FIG. 5

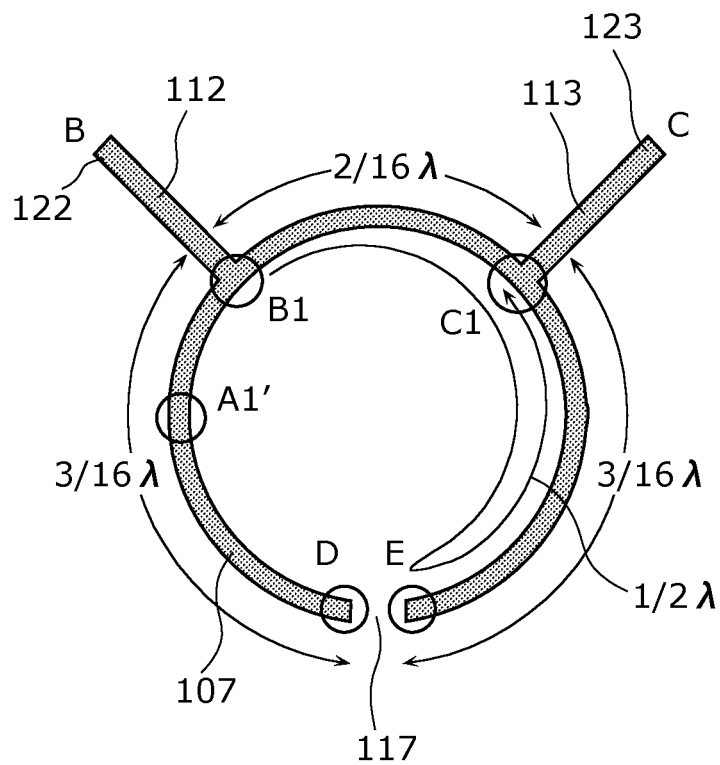


FIG. 6

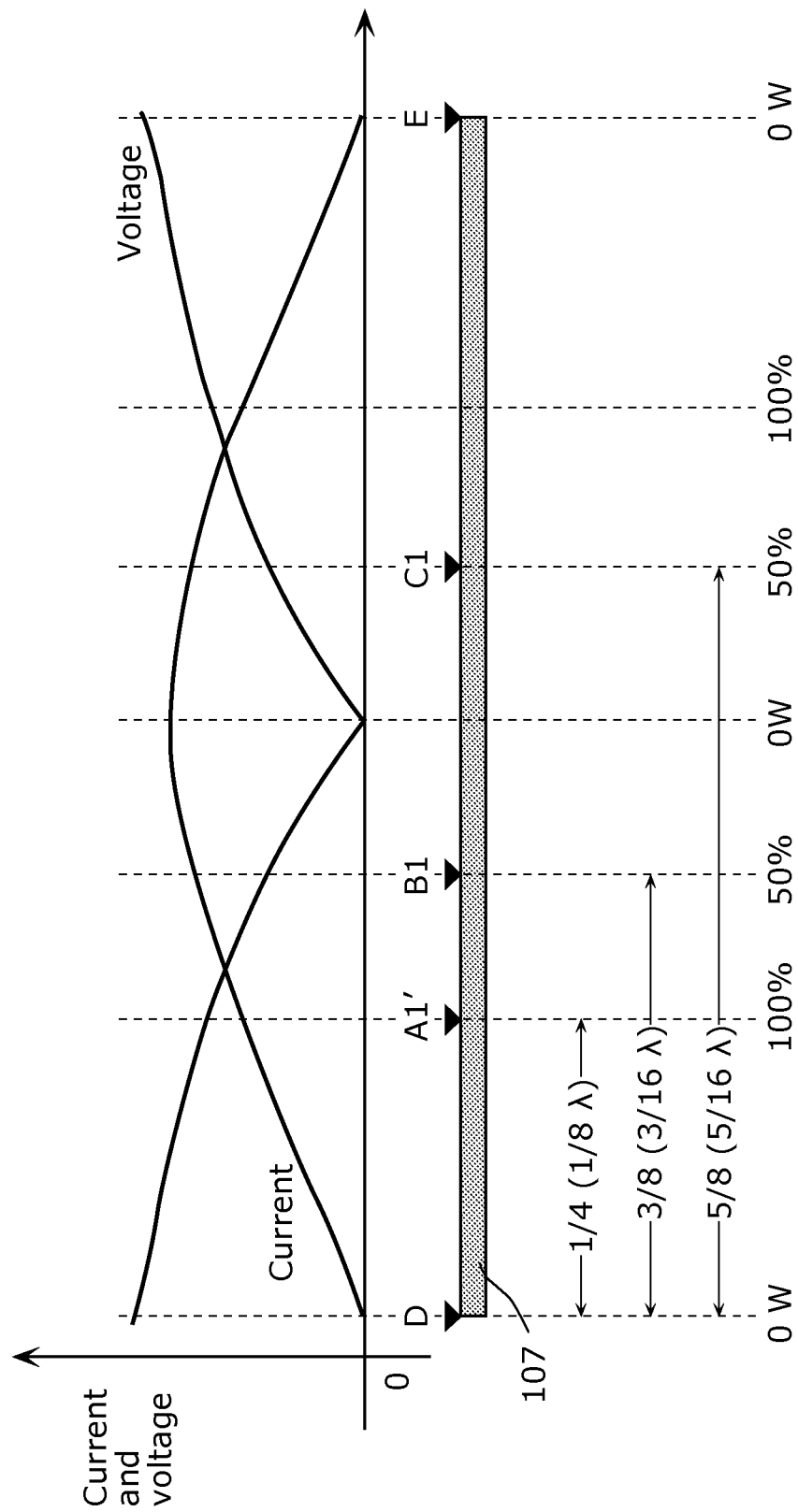


FIG. 7

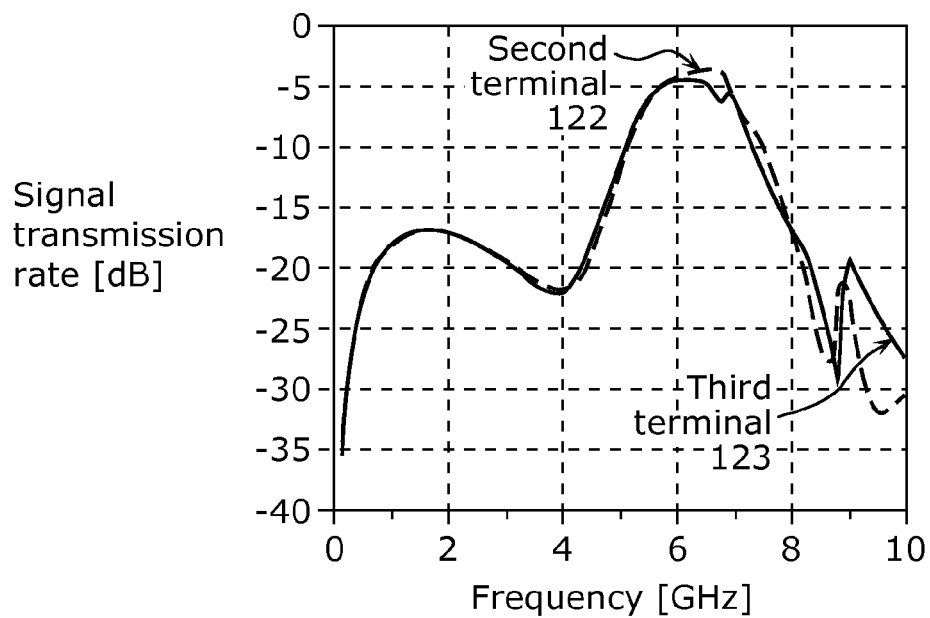


FIG. 8

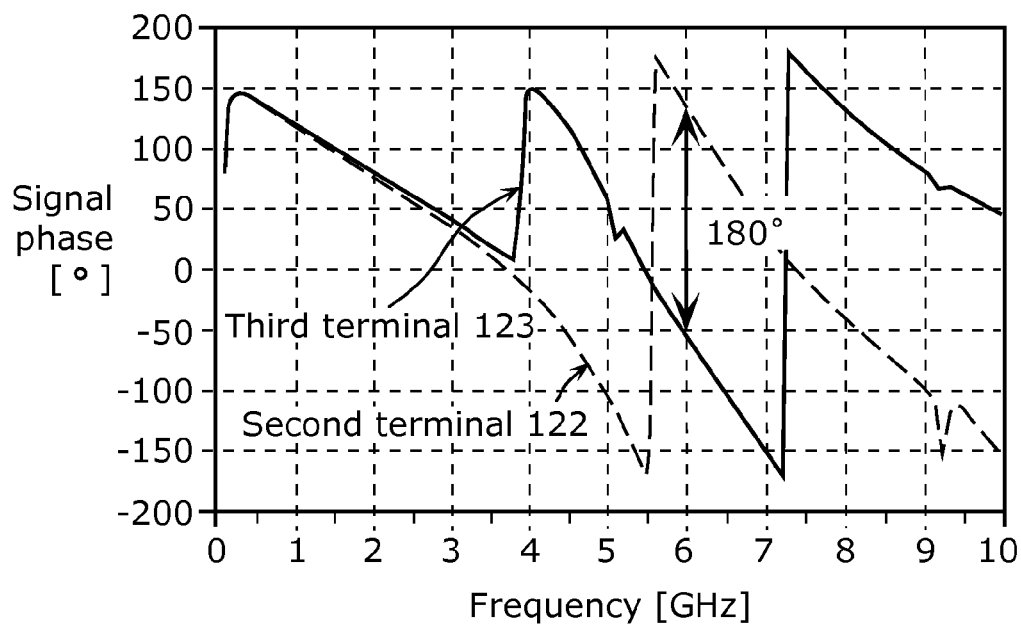


FIG. 9

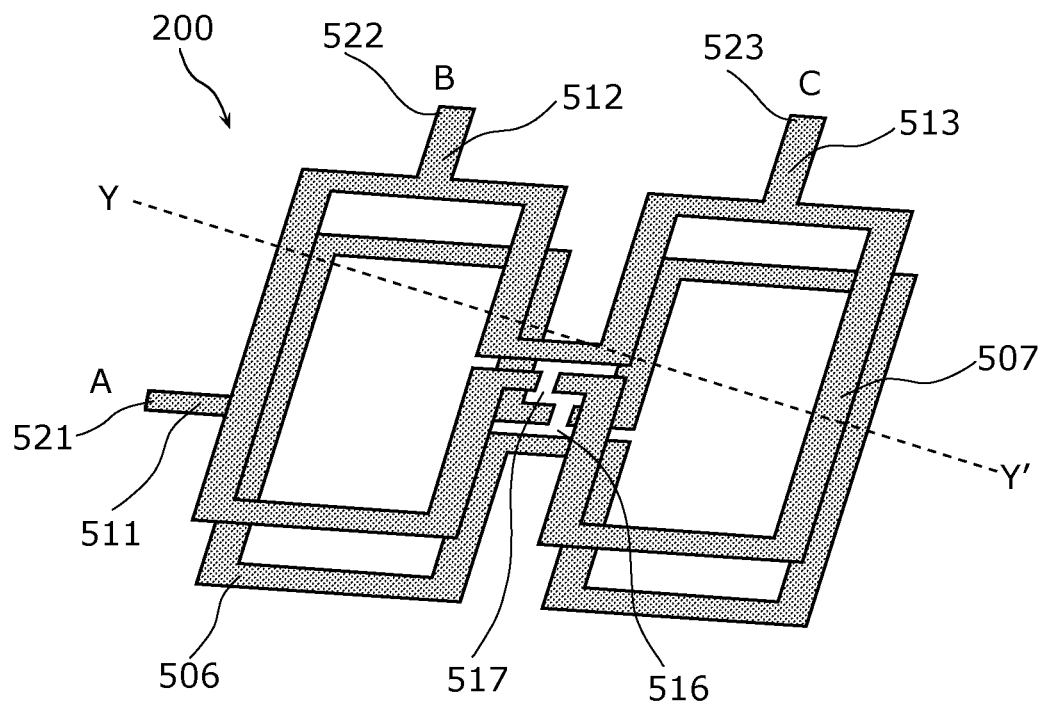


FIG. 10

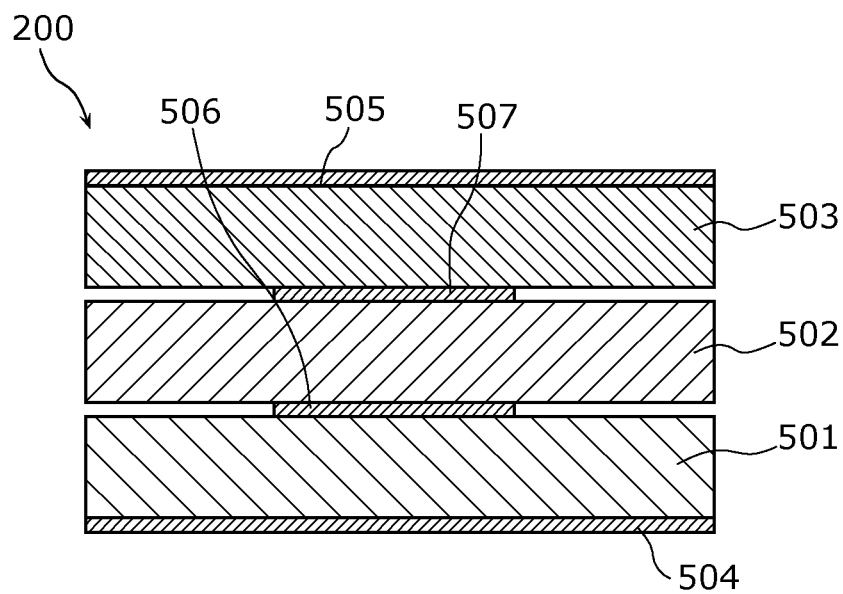


FIG. 11

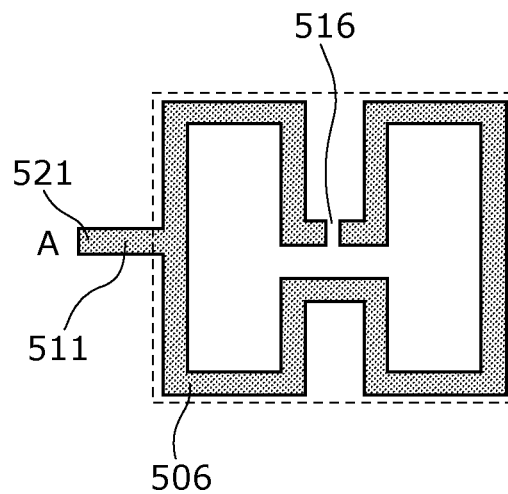


FIG. 12

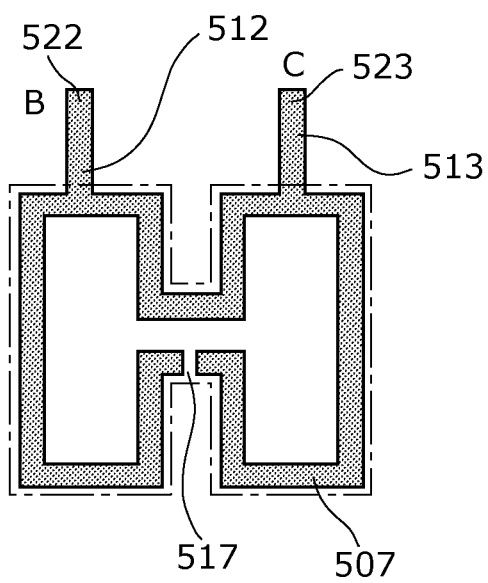


FIG. 13

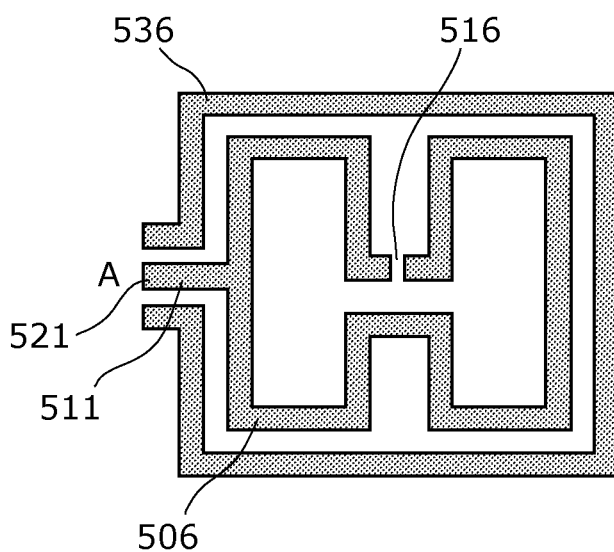
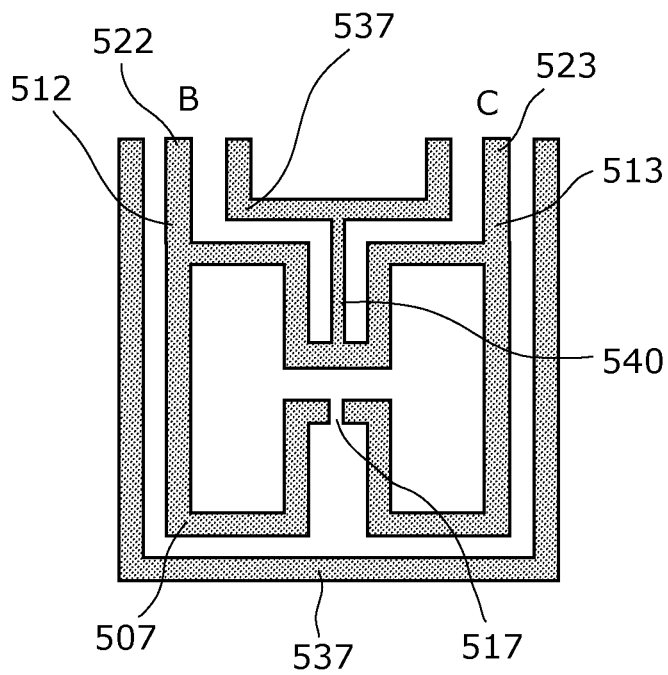


FIG. 14



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**ELECTROMAGNETIC RESONANCE
COUPLER****CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

This is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 14/061, 843, filed Oct. 24, 2013, which is a continuation application of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP2013/000425 filed on Jan. 28, 2013, designating the United States of America, which is based on and claims priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 2012-044456 filed on Feb. 29, 2012. The entire disclosures of the above-identified applications, including the specifications, drawings and claims are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD

One or more exemplary embodiments disclosed herein relate generally to electromagnetic resonance couplers that transmit the electrical energy of high frequency signals wirelessly.

BACKGROUND

Rat race circuits (for example, patent literature (PTL) 1), which convert one high frequency signal (single-ended signal) into two equal amplitude, anti-phase differential signals, are widely used as a structural element in, for example, microwave band frequency converters. Use of such a rat race circuit makes it possible to amplify each of the differential signals by amplifying the single-ended signal with one amplifier.

CITATION LIST**Patent Literature**

[PTL 1] Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H8-279707

Technical Problem

Miniaturization is problematic with single-ended to differential converters which split a single-ended signal into two equal amplitude, anti-phase differential signals, such as the rat race circuit described above.

One non-limiting and exemplary embodiment disclosed herein provides a single-ended to differential converter capable of being miniaturized.

SUMMARY**Solution to Problem**

In order to overcome the aforementioned problem, an electromagnetic resonance coupler according to an aspect of an exemplary embodiment for transmitting a transmission signal between first resonant wiring and second resonant wiring wirelessly, the electromagnetic resonance coupler including: a first planar region; a second planar region facing the first planar region; the first resonant wiring provided on the first planar region; input wiring provided on the first planar region and connected to a first connection point of the first resonant wiring; the second resonant wiring provided on the second planar region; first output wiring provided on the second planar region and connected to a second connection point of the second resonant wiring; and second output wiring provided on the second planar region and connected to a third connection point of the second resonant wiring, wherein the input wiring is wiring to which the transmission signal is

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inputted, the first output wiring and the second output wiring are wiring from which the transmitted transmission signal is outputted, the second resonant wiring has an open loop shape having an opening, and a distance L1 from a first end of the second resonant wiring formed by the opening to the second connection point and a distance L2 from a second end of the second resonant wiring formed by the opening to the third connection point are equal.

Additional benefits and advantages of the disclosed embodiments will be apparent from the Specification and Drawings. The benefits and/or advantages may be individually obtained by the various embodiments and features of the Specification and Drawings, which need not all be provided in order to obtain one or more of such benefits and/or advantages.

Advantageous Effects

A miniaturized single-ended to differential converter is achievable by implementing the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to one or more exemplary embodiments or features disclosed herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

These and other advantages and features will become apparent from the following description thereof taken in conjunction with the accompanying Drawings, by way of non-limiting examples of embodiments disclosed herein.

FIG. 1 is a top view of a rat race circuit.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view (transparent view) of the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to Embodiment 1.

FIG. 3 is a cross section of the electromagnetic resonance coupler in a plane perpendicular to the main surface of the substrate and passing through the line X-X' shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a top view of the transmitting resonator.

FIG. 5 is a top view of the receiving resonator.

FIG. 6 shows the relationship between voltage and current in the receiving resonator in a resonating state.

FIG. 7 shows the signal transmission rate of the electromagnetic resonance coupler when a signal is inputted to the first terminal.

FIG. 8 shows the phases of signals outputted from the second terminal and the third terminal when a signal is inputted to the first terminal.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of the electromagnetic resonance coupler having a rectangular transmitting resonator and receiving resonator.

FIG. 10 is a cross section of the electromagnetic resonance coupler in a plane perpendicular to the main surface of the substrate and passing through the line Y-Y' shown in FIG. 9.

FIG. 11 is a top view of a rectangular transmitting resonator.

FIG. 12 is a top view of a rectangular receiving resonator.

FIG. 13 shows an example of when a coplanar ground is provided at a periphery of the transmitting resonator.

FIG. 14 shows an example of when a coplanar ground and isolation wiring is provided at a periphery of the receiving resonator.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

(Underlying Knowledge Forming Basis of the Present Disclosure)

A rat race circuit such as the one disclosed in PTL 1 recited in the Background section is capable of converting one high frequency signal (single-ended signal) into two equal amplitude, anti-phase differential signals.

FIG. 1 shows the structure of the distributed constant rat race circuit disclosed in PTL 1.

The impedance at each terminal is R_0 (generally 50Ω), and each terminal is connected by a line having an impedance of $\sqrt{2} \times R_0$.

In FIG. 1, A is an input terminal, B and D are output terminals, and C is an isolation terminal. The distance (length) between terminals A and B, between terminals B and C, and between terminals C and D is $\frac{1}{4}$ -wavelength of the operating frequency, and the distance between terminals A and D is $\frac{3}{4}$ -wavelength. As a result, equal amplitude, anti-phase signals are outputted from terminals B and D, and no signal is outputted from terminal C.

When a high frequency signal is inputted from terminal A, a signal which has traveled $\lambda/4$ of the ring in a clockwise direction from terminal A and a signal which has traveled $5\lambda/4$ of the ring in a counter-clockwise direction from terminal A arrive at terminal B. In other words, since they are in-phase, the two signals are summed together and outputted to terminal B.

Moreover, similarly, a signal which has traveled $3\lambda/4$ of the ring in a clockwise direction from terminal A and a signal which has traveled $3\lambda/4$ of the ring in a counter-clockwise direction from terminal A arrive at terminal D, and since these two terminals are in-phase, they are summed together and outputted.

In other words, an input signal from terminal A is split and outputted to terminals B and D, and the phase of the signal outputted from terminal B and the phase of the signal outputted from terminal D are in anti-phase (180° out of phase).

In this way, a single-ended signal can be converted into differential signals with a rat race circuit. Moreover, conversely, by inputting equal amplitude, anti-phase signals to terminal B and D, a signal having an amplitude two times that of the signals inputted in terminals B and D is outputted from terminal A.

Miniaturization is problematic with single-ended to differential converters which split a single-ended signal into two equal amplitude, anti-phase differential signals, such as the rat race circuit described above.

In order to overcome the aforementioned problem, an electromagnetic resonance coupler according to an aspect of an exemplary embodiment for transmitting a high frequency signal between first resonant wiring and second resonant wiring wirelessly, the electromagnetic resonance coupler including: a first substrate; a second substrate facing the first substrate; the first resonant wiring provided on the first substrate and having an open loop shape having an opening; first input/output wiring provided on the first substrate and connected to a first connection point on the first resonant wiring; the second resonant wiring provided on the second substrate and having a same wiring width and shape as a wiring width and shape of the first resonant wiring; second input/output wiring provided on the second substrate and connected to a second connection point positioned on the second resonant wiring a predetermined distance away from a first end of the second resonant wiring; and third input/output wiring provided on the second substrate and connected to a third connection point positioned on the second resonant wiring the predetermined distance away from a second end of the second resonant wiring, wherein when viewed in a direction perpendicular to a main surface of the first substrate, the first resonant wiring and the second resonant wiring are symmetric about a point and have matching contours, and when the high frequency signal is inputted to the electromagnetic resonance coupler, an electrical energy level at the second connection point and the third connection point is half an electrical

energy level at a position on the second resonant wiring overlapping the first connection point.

With this, a substantially miniaturized single-ended to differential converter using an electromagnetic coupler is achieved. Moreover, with the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to one non-limiting and exemplary embodiment, since it is possible to transmit signals wirelessly, isolation (insulation) of the ground between input/output terminals is possible. Furthermore, since an electromagnetic coupler is used, a low-loss wireless signal transmission apparatus can be achieved.

Moreover, the first connection point may be positioned one quarter of a wiring length of the first resonant wiring away from a first end of the first resonant wiring, the second connection point may be positioned three-eighths of a wiring length of the second resonant wiring away from the first end of the second resonant wiring, and the third connection point may be positioned three-eighths of a wiring length of the second resonant wiring away from the second end of the second resonant wiring.

Moreover, the first resonant wiring and the second resonant wiring may each have a wiring length corresponding to a half wavelength of the high frequency signal in the first resonant wiring and the second resonant wiring.

Moreover, the loop shape may be circular.

Moreover, the loop shape may be rectangular or may be a shape having at least five bends.

With this, it is possible to further reduce the surface area taken up by the resonant wiring on the substrate by making the resonant wiring into loop shape that has at least five bends. In other words, the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to one non-limiting and exemplary embodiment operates as a further miniaturized single-ended to differential converter.

Moreover, the first resonant wiring and the second resonant wiring may be spaced apart in the direction perpendicular to the main surface of the first substrate by a distance of at most a half wavelength of the high frequency signal.

With this, the efficiency of the electromagnetic resonance coupler is improved and a low-loss single-ended to differential converter is achieved.

Moreover, the electromagnetic resonance coupler may further include ground wiring provided either on a surface of the first substrate not provided with the first resonant wiring, or on a surface of the second substrate not provided with the second resonant wiring, the ground wiring indicating a reference potential of the high frequency signal.

Moreover, the electromagnetic resonance coupler may further include ground wiring provided on the first substrate at a periphery of the first resonant wiring and the first input/output wiring, and on the second substrate at a periphery of the second resonant wiring, the second input/output wiring, and the third input/output wiring, the ground wiring indicating a reference potential of the high frequency signal.

Moreover, the second resonant wiring may either be connected to wiring connected to a midpoint of the second connection point and the third connection point, or connected, with a via, to ground wiring indicating a reference potential of the high frequency signal.

In this way, it is possible to improve the quality of the signal transmitted, by adequately providing ground wiring.

Moreover, the electromagnetic resonance coupler may further include; a cover substrate placed over either the first substrate or the second substrate; and ground wiring provided on the cover substrate on a surface thereof not facing a one of the first substrate and the second substrate, the ground wiring indicating a reference potential of the high frequency signal.

In this way, provision of a cover substrate protects against unwanted electromagnetic radiation, resulting in a single-ended to differential converter resistant to external noise.

Moreover, the first substrate and the second substrate may be a single substrate, the first resonant wiring and the first input/output wiring may be provided on a first surface of the substrate, and the second resonant wiring, the second input/output wiring, and the third input/output wiring may be provided on a second surface of the substrate.

With this, it is possible to further miniaturize the single-ended to differential converter.

Hereinafter, certain exemplary embodiments are described in greater detail with reference to the accompanying Drawings.

Each of the exemplary embodiments described below shows a general or specific example. The numerical values, shapes, materials, structural elements, the arrangement and connection of the structural elements, steps, the processing order of the steps etc. shown in the following exemplary embodiments are mere examples, and therefore do not limit the scope of the appended Claims and their equivalents. Therefore, among the structural elements in the following exemplary embodiments, structural elements not recited in any one of the independent claims are described as arbitrary structural elements.

Embodiment 1

Hereinafter, the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to Embodiment 1 will be described with reference to the Drawings.
(Structure)

First, the structure of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** according to Embodiment 1 will be described.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view (transparent view) of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** according to Embodiment 1.

FIG. **3** is a cross section of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** shown in FIG. **2** in a plane passing through a diagonal line of the substrate (a plane perpendicular to the main surface of the substrate and passing through the line X-X' shown in FIG. **2**).

The electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** according to Embodiment 1 is an electromagnetic resonance coupler that transmits 6.0 GHz AC signals wirelessly. In other words, the operating frequency of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** is 6.0 GHz.

The electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** includes a transmission substrate **101** (the first substrate) and a reception substrate **102** (the second substrate) placed over the transmission substrate **101**.

The transmission substrate **101** and the reception substrate **102** are dielectric substrates, such as sapphire substrates. Moreover, the thickness of each of the substrates is 0.2 mm. It should be noted that gas (such as air), liquid, or other dielectric material may be present between the substrates.

First wiring **111** made of metal (the input wiring) and a transmitting resonator **106** (the first resonant wiring) made of metal and having a circular shape (an open ring shape) opened by a transmitting resonator slit **116** (the opening) are formed on the top surface of the transmission substrate **101** (the first planar region). A first end of the first wiring **111** is connected to the transmitting resonator **106**, and the second end of the first wiring **111** is a first terminal **121**.

The reception substrate **102** is placed over the transmission substrate **101** to cover the transmitting resonator **106** of the transmission substrate **101**.

Second wiring **112** made of metal (the first output wiring), third wiring **113** made of metal (the second output wiring), and a receiving resonator **107** (the second resonant wiring) made of metal and having a circular shape (an open ring shape) with a portion thereof opened by a receiving resonator slit **117** are formed on the top surface of the reception substrate **102** (the second planar region). The receiving resonator **107** is connected to a first end of the second wiring **112** and a first end of the third wiring **113**. The second end of the second wiring **112** is a second terminal **122**, and the second end of the third wiring **113** is a third terminal **123**. Moreover, the receiving resonator **107** is equal in size and shape to the transmitting resonator **106**.

The material used for the above-described metal wiring is, for example, gold, but may be a different metal.

Moreover, a bottom surface ground **104**, which is made of metal, is formed on the bottom surface of the transmission substrate **101**. The bottom surface ground **104** is ground wiring which indicates a reference potential of a signal in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100**. The material used for the bottom surface ground **104** is, for example, gold.

The transmission substrate **101** and the reception substrate **102** overlap in a manner such that the contours of the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** match when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the main surface of the transmission substrate **101** (when viewed from above). Additionally, the transmission substrate **101** and the reception substrate **102** overlap in a manner such that the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** are symmetrical about a point when viewed from above.

It should be noted that “matching” in reference to the contours of the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** also includes instances where the contours of the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** are different, but are within a manufacturing margin of error.

Here, the contour of the transmitting resonator **106** is defined as follows. Assuming that the transmitting resonator slit **116** is not provided in the transmitting resonator **106** and the transmitting resonator **106** is wiring having a closed-loop-shape, this closed-loop-shaped wiring includes an inner circumference contour (inner contour) and an outer circumference contour (outer contour). Here, the inner circumference contour defines an area surrounded by the closed-loop-shaped wiring, and the outer circumference contour defines the shape of the closed-loop-shaped wiring including the inner circumference contour. Of these two contours, the contour of the transmitting resonator **106** refers to the outer circumference contour. In other words, the wiring width of the transmitting resonator **106** is defined by the inner circumference contour and outer circumference contour, and the area occupied by the transmitting resonator **106** is defined by the outer circumference contour. It should be noted that the contour of the receiving resonator **107** is also defined in the same manner.

In other words, in Embodiment 1, the contour of the transmitting resonator **106** is the outermost shape of the transmitting resonator **106** and is circular, and the contour of the receiving resonator **107** is the outermost shape of the receiving resonator **107** and is circular. In this case, the contours “matching” means the contours of the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107**, excluding the portions corresponding to the transmitting resonator slit **116** and the receiving resonator slit **117**, match.

It should be noted that “matching” means matching in a practical sense, and allows for the inclusion of inconsistencies in the assembly of the transmission substrate **101** and the

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reception substrate **102** of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100**, and inconsistencies in the size of the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** occurring in the manufacturing thereof. In other words, "matching" contours does not necessarily mean an exact match.

Next, each substrate will be described in detail using FIG. 4 and FIG. 5.

FIG. 4 is a top view of the transmitting resonator **106**.

The transmitting resonator **106** has a circular shape with a diameter of 2.7 mm. Furthermore, the shape of the transmitting resonator **106** is a loop shape (closed curve) with a portion opened by the transmitting resonator slit **116**. The wiring length of the transmitting resonator **106** is equal to one half of a wavelength of the 6.0 GHz AC signal. The wiring width of the transmitting resonator **106** is 0.1 mm.

The wiring length (length of the loop) of the transmitting resonator **106** is equal to approximately one half of a wavelength of the high frequency signals transmitted by the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100**. This wavelength is obtained taking the wavelength compaction ratio respective to the wiring material into account.

The transmitting resonator **106** and the first wiring **111** are physically connected together. It should be noted that the transmitting resonator **106** and the first wiring **111** are not required to be physically connected together, and may be electrically connected. More specifically, the first end of the first wiring **111** is connected to the transmitting resonator **106** at a position (point A1: the first connection point) one-fourth of the wiring length of the transmitting resonator **106** away from a first end of the transmitting resonator **106** created by the transmitting resonator slit **116**. In other words, one-fourth of the wiring length is equal to approximately one-eighth of the wavelength of the high frequency signals transmitted by the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100**.

The second end of the first wiring **111** not connected to the transmitting resonator **106** is the first terminal **121**. The wiring width of the first wiring **111** is 0.1 mm. The reception substrate **102** is placed over the top surface of transmission substrate **101**.

FIG. 5 is a top view of the receiving resonator **107**.

The receiving resonator **107** has a circular shape with a diameter of 2.7 mm. Furthermore, the shape of the receiving resonator **107** is a loop shape (closed curve) with a portion opened by the receiving resonator slit **117**. The wiring width of the receiving resonator **107** is 0.1 mm. In other words, the receiving resonator **107** is equal in size and shape to the transmitting resonator **106**.

The receiving resonator **107** is physically connected to the second wiring **112** and the third wiring **113**. It should be noted that the receiving resonator **107** is not required to be physically connected to the second wiring **112** and the third wiring **113**, but may be electrically connected thereto.

The locations of the connection point of the receiving resonator **107** and the second wiring **112** and the connection point of the receiving resonator **107** and the third wiring **113** are symmetrical with respect to the receiving resonator slit **117**. More specifically, the first end of the second wiring **112** is connected to the receiving resonator **107** at a position (point B1: the second connection point) three-eighths of the wiring length of the receiving resonator **107** away from a first end (point D) of the receiving resonator **107** created by the receiving resonator slit **117**. In other words, three-eighths of the wiring length is equal to approximately three-sixteenths of the wavelength of the high frequency signals transmitted by the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100**.

Moreover, the third wiring **113** is connected to the receiving resonator **107** at a position (point C1: the third connection

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point) five-eighths of the wiring length of the receiving resonator **107** away from the first end (point D) of the receiving resonator **107** created by the receiving resonator slit **117**. In other words, five-eighths of the wiring length is equal to approximately five-sixteenths of the wavelength of the high frequency signals transmitted by the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100**.

In other words, the third wiring **113** is connected to the receiving resonator **107** at a position (point C1) three-eighths of the wiring length of the receiving resonator **107** away from the second end (point E) of the receiving resonator **107** created by the receiving resonator slit **117**.

It should be noted that point A1' on the receiving resonator **107** corresponds to point A1 on the transmitting resonator **106** overlapping with the receiving resonator **107**.

The second end of the second wiring **112** that is not connected to the receiving resonator **107** is the second terminal **122**, and the second end of the third wiring **113** that is not connected to the receiving resonator **107** is the third terminal **123**. The wiring width of the second wiring **112** and the third wiring **113** is 0.1 mm.

It should be noted that the position of point A1 at which the first wiring **111** and the transmitting resonator **106** are connected together is, in actuality, slightly adjusted taking input impedance and manufacturing inconsistencies into consideration. For this reason, the position of point A1 is not required to exactly match the position shown in FIG. 4.

Similarly, the position of point B1 at which the second wiring **112** and the receiving resonator **107** are connected together and the position of C1 at which the third wiring **113** and the receiving resonator **107** are connected together are, in actuality, slightly adjusted taking input impedance and manufacturing inconsistencies into consideration. For this reason, the positions of point B1 and point C1 are not required to exactly match the positions shown in FIG. 5.

Moreover, in consideration of the above impedance, the wiring width of the second wiring **112** and the third wiring **113** may be made larger than the wiring width of the first wiring **111**. For example, the wiring width of the second wiring **112** and the third wiring **113** may be 0.2 mm with respect to the wiring width of the first wiring **111** being 0.1 mm. However, it should be noted that the wiring width of the second wiring **112** and the third wiring **113** is not limited to this example.

Moreover, the distance between the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** is 0.2 mm, which is the thickness of the reception substrate **102**. This is no more than one half of the wavelength (operating wavelength) of the 6.0 GHz AC signal input to the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** in Embodiment 1. This wavelength is obtained taking the wavelength compaction ratio dependent on the media (sapphire) between the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** into account. In other words, under this condition, the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** are coupled by electromagnetic resonant coupling in a near field.

It should be noted that the distance between the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** is not limited to one half of the operating wavelength or less. Operation is possible at distances higher than this. However, operation efficiency is optimal when the distance between the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** is no more than one half of the operating wavelength.

(Operation)

Next, the operation of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** according to Embodiment 1 will be described.

The high frequency signal inputted from the first terminal **121** is inputted to the transmitting resonator **106** via the first wiring **111**. As described above, the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** overlap each other and are spaced apart at a distance equal to no more than one half of the inputted high frequency signal (operating frequency 6.0 GHz), and are coupled by electromagnetic resonant coupling.

Since the total length of the wiring of transmitting resonator **106** is set to one half of the operating wavelength, the high frequency signal inputted to the transmitting resonator **106** enters a resonating state in the transmitting resonator **106**, exciting the electromagnetic field in the vicinity. When the electromagnetic field in the transmitting resonator **106** is excited, the electromagnetic field in the receiving resonator **107**, which is coupled to the transmitting resonator **106** by electromagnetic resonant coupling, is also excited. In other words, the 6.0 GHz high frequency signal is in a resonating state in the receiving resonator **107** as well. This causes an AC signal to be transmitted to the receiving resonator **107** wirelessly.

It should be noted that the total length of the wiring of each the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** may be set to an integral multiple of one half of the operating wavelength. In other words, the total length of the wiring of each the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** may be set to $(\lambda/2) \times n$, where λ is the operating wavelength and n is an integer. That is to say, the total length of the wiring of each the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** is not limited to one half of the operating wavelength.

As FIG. 5 shows, in the receiving resonator **107**, the AC signal transmitted from the transmitting resonator **106** is reflected at the first end (point D) of the receiving resonator **107** and the second end (point E) of the receiving resonator **107**, and enters a resonating state.

At this time, it is believed that the high frequency signal at point C1 arrives there from point B1 after being reflected back from point E. The length of the path from point B1 to point E and back to point C1 is equal to one half of the wavelength of the transmitted high frequency signal. As such, the waveform of the high frequency signal at point C1 has a phase difference of one half the wavelength of the high frequency signal at point B1 (180° difference). In other words, signals 180° out of phase are available from points B1 and C1.

Next, the location of the connection point of the first wiring **111** and the transmitting resonator **106** (point A1) and the locations of the connection points of the second wiring **112** and third wiring **113** to the receiving resonator **107** (point B1 and point C1) will be discussed.

FIG. 6 shows the relationship between voltage and current in the receiving resonator **107** in a resonating state.

FIG. 6 schematically shows how voltage and current are distributed when the circular wiring of the receiving resonator **107** is made into a straight line and a 6.0 GHz high frequency signal is inputted to the receiving resonator **107** in a resonating state.

Point A1', point B1, point C1, point D, and point E shown in FIG. 6 correspond to the same points shown in FIG. 5. When electrical energy is inputted at point A1 on the transmitting resonator **106**, the same amount of electrical energy is also inputted to point A1' on the receiving resonator **107** coupled to the transmitting resonator **106** by electromagnetic resonant coupling.

In the resonating state, the receiving resonator **107** has voltage and current levels like FIG. 6 shows, so when the electrical energy at point A1' is split in two, the points at

which the electrical energy level becomes half are point B1 and point C1. Point B1 and point C1 are positioned symmetrically with respect to the receiving resonator slit **117**, as previously described, and the signals manifesting at point B1 and point C1 are 180° out of phase.

With this, the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** operates as a single-ended to differential converter.

Next, the operation of the above-described electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** will be described with reference to data (FIG. 7 and FIG. 8).

FIG. 7 shows the signal transmission rate of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** when a signal is inputted to the first terminal **121**.

Signal transmission rate is represented on the vertical axis of the graph in FIG. 7. Signal transmission rate is the ratio of electrical energy of signals outputted from the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123** to electrical energy of a signal inputted to the first terminal **121** shown in decibels. The frequency of the signal inputted to the first terminal **121** is represented on the horizontal axis of the graph in FIG. 7.

As FIG. 7 shows, when a 6.0 GHz high frequency signal is inputted to the first terminal **121**, signals having approximately half (−3 dB) the electrical energy of the signal inputted to the first terminal **121** are outputted from the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123**.

In this way, with Embodiment 1, it is known that the electrical energy inputted to the first terminal **121** can be split between the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123**.

Moreover, the difference in electrical energy outputted by the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123** is low, and the power inputted to the first terminal **121** is split uniformly between the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123**.

FIG. 8 shows the phases of signals outputted from the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123** when a signal is inputted to the first terminal **121**.

The phases of the signals outputted from the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123** are represented on the vertical axis of the graph in FIG. 8. The frequency of the AC signal inputted to the first terminal **121** is represented on the horizontal axis of the graph in FIG. 8.

As FIG. 8 shows, in the frequency band of 6.0 GHz, the phase of the signal outputted by the second terminal **122** and the phase of the signal outputted by the third terminal **123** are different by 180°.

With the data shown in FIG. 7 and FIG. 8, it is known that it is possible to convert a single-ended signal into two equal amplitude, anti-phase differential signals in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100**.

The wiring length (circumference length) of a rat race circuit like the one shown in FIG. 1 is two-thirds of the wavelength (operating wavelength) of inputted high frequency signals, but with the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** according to Embodiment 1, the wiring length of the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** may be one half of the operating wavelength. As such, when comparing surface areas, the surface area of the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** is one-ninth that of the rat race circuit shown in FIG. 1.

In this way, a miniaturized single-ended to differential converter is achievable by implementing the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to one or more exemplary embodiments or features disclosed herein.

It should be noted that the positions of the first connection point (point A1) at which the first wiring **111** is connected to the transmitting resonator **106**, the second connection point (point B1) at which the second wiring **112** is connected to the receiving resonator **107**, and the third connection point (point

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C1) at which the third wiring **113** is connected to the receiving resonator **107** are not limited to the above examples.

It should be noted that in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** according to Embodiment 1, wiring which indicates a reference potential of the transmitting resonator **106** and wiring which indicates a reference potential of the receiving resonator **107** are both the bottom surface ground **104**. Since the transmitting resonator **106** and the receiving resonator **107** are not physically connected, the reference potential of the signals in the transmission substrate **101** and the reception substrate **102** need not be exactly the same. The transmission substrate **101** and the reception substrate **102** may be provided with wiring which indicate different reference potentials.

In other words, it is possible to insulate the ground and transmit signals between the transmission substrate **101** and the reception substrate **102**. More specifically, for example, it is possible to input to the first terminal **121** a signal with a reference of 0 V, and output signals from the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123** with a reference of 100 V.

Moreover, in Embodiment 1, an example of converting a single-ended signal into differential signals is described, but of course it is also possible to convert differential signals into a single-ended signal. More specifically, by inputting equal amplitude, anti-phase high frequency signals to the second terminal **122** and the third terminal **123**, a single-ended high frequency signal is outputted from the first terminal.

Moreover, with the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100**, it is possible to transmit signals with substantially low loss by electromagnetic resonant coupling. In other words, according to one or more exemplary embodiments or features disclosed herein, it is possible to realize a low-loss power coupler and distributor.

Embodiment 2

Next, the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to Embodiment 2 will be described with reference to the Drawings. Embodiment 1 describes an open ring shaped electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** where the transmitting resonator and the receiving resonator are circular in shape, but the transmitting resonator receiving resonator may be rectangular in shape. Embodiment 2 describes an electromagnetic resonance coupler having a rectangular shaped transmitting resonator and receiving resonator.

It should be noted that the main difference between the electromagnetic resonance coupler described in the following Embodiment 2 and the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** described in Embodiment 1 is the shape of the transmitting resonator and receiving resonator. Other structural elements, particularly those not described, perform the same function and operate the same as in Embodiment 1. (Structure)

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **200** having a rectangular transmitting resonator and receiving resonator. FIG. 9 schematically only shows, in particular, the transmitting resonator **506** (first resonant wiring) and the receiving resonator **507** (second resonant wiring) formed on substrates.

FIG. 10 is a cross section of the electromagnetic resonance coupler **200** in a plane perpendicular to the main surface of the substrate and passing through the line Y-Y' shown in FIG. 9.

The electromagnetic resonance coupler **200** according to Embodiment 2 includes a transmission substrate **501** (the first substrate), a reception substrate **502** (the second substrate)

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which is placed over the transmission substrate **501**, and a cover substrate **503** which is placed over the reception substrate **502**.

The transmission substrate **501**, the reception substrate **502**, and the cover substrate **503** are dielectric substrates, such as sapphire substrates. However, the material used for the substrates is not limited to sapphire. For example, the substrate material may be silicon. Moreover, the transmission substrate **501**, the reception substrate **502**, and the cover substrate **503** may each be made of different material.

The thickness of each the transmission substrate **501**, the reception substrate **502**, and the cover substrate **503** is, but not limited to, 0.2 mm. Moreover, the transmission substrate **501**, the reception substrate **502**, and the cover substrate **503** may each have a different thickness.

A bottom surface ground **504**, which is made of metal, is formed on the bottom surface of the transmission substrate **501**. The bottom surface ground **504** is ground wiring which indicates a reference potential of a signal in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **200**. The material used for the bottom surface ground **504** is, for example, gold.

First wiring **511** made of metal (the input wiring) and a transmitting resonator **106** (the first resonant wiring) made of metal and having a rectangular shape (an open loop shape) with a portion thereof opened by a transmitting resonator slit **516** (the opening) are formed on the top surface of the transmission substrate **501** (or the bottom surface of the reception substrate **502**). A first end of the first wiring **511** is connected to the transmitting resonator **506**, and the second end of the first wiring **511** is a first terminal **521**.

The reception substrate **502** is placed over the transmission substrate **501** to cover the transmitting resonator **506** of the transmission substrate **501**. The transmission substrate **501** and the reception substrate **502** overlap in a manner such that the contours of the transmitting resonator **506** and the receiving resonator **507** match when viewed from above. Additionally, the transmission substrate **501** and the reception substrate **502** overlap in a manner such that the transmitting resonator **506** and the receiving resonator **507** are symmetrical about a point when viewed from above.

Here, the shape of contours of the transmitting resonator **506** and the receiving resonator **507** is represented by the dotted and dashed line in FIG. 12, to be described later. In this case, the contours "matching" means the contours of the transmitting resonator **506** and the receiving resonator **507** excluding the portions corresponding to the transmitting resonator slit **516** and the receiving resonator slit **517** match.

Second wiring **512** made of metal (the first output wiring), third wiring **513** made of metal (the second output wiring), and a receiving resonator **507** (the second resonant wiring) made of metal and having a rectangular shape (an open loop shape) with a portion thereof opened by a receiving resonator slit **517** are formed on the top surface of the reception substrate **502** (or on the bottom surface of the cover substrate **503**). The receiving resonator **507** is connected to a first end of the second wiring **512** and a first end of the third wiring **513**. The second end of the second wiring **512** is a second terminal **522**, and the second end of the third wiring **513** is a third terminal **523**.

The material used for the above-described metal wiring is, for example, gold, but may be a different metal.

The cover substrate **503** is placed over the reception substrate **502** for the purpose of protection of influence from unwanted electromagnetic waves.

A cover ground **505**, which is made of metal, is formed on the top surface of the cover substrate **503**. The cover ground **505** is ground wiring which indicates a reference potential of

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a signal in the electromagnetic resonance coupler 200. The material used for the cover ground 505 is, for example, gold.

It should be noted that the cover substrate and the cover ground may of course also be provided in the electromagnetic resonance coupler 100 according to Embodiment 1.

Next, the transmitting resonator 506 and the receiving resonator 507 will be discussed in detail.

First, the transmitting resonator 506 will be discussed.

FIG. 11 is a top view of the transmitting resonator 506.

The transmitting resonator 506 provided on the transmission substrate 501 is wiring having an open loop shape with a portion opened by the transmitting resonator slit 516. The transmitting resonator 506 has a shape having at least five bends. More specifically, the transmitting resonator 506 has a shape having twelve bends. Here, a bend may be a 90 degree bend like those shown in FIG. 11, or may be a rounded bend.

In this way, by having bends, the electromagnetic resonance coupler 200 can be miniaturized to a size smaller than the electromagnetic resonance coupler 100 can be.

The transmitting resonator 506 is wiring having, excluding the portion indented inward, a rectangular external shape (the dashed line in FIG. 11), and the transmitting resonator slit 516 is provided inward relative to the external shape of the transmitting resonator 506 (the dashed line in FIG. 11).

Moreover, the loop shape of the transmitting resonator 506, excluding the transmitting resonator slit 516 portion, is symmetrical about the center. The wiring length of the transmitting resonator 506 is equal to one half of a wavelength of the 6.0 GHz AC signal. This wavelength is obtained taking the wavelength compaction ratio respective to the wiring material into account.

It should be noted that the transmitting resonator 506 (receiving resonator 507) is not limited to the shape shown in FIG. 11. For example, the transmitting resonator 506 (receiving resonator 507) may have a shape similar to that shown by the dashed line in FIG. 11 (a square or rectangle).

The transmitting resonator 506 and the first wiring 511 are physically connected together. It should be noted that the transmitting resonator 506 and the first wiring 511 are not required to be physically connected together, and may be electrically connected.

More specifically, the first end of the first wiring 511 is connected to the transmitting resonator 506 a position one-fourth of the wiring length of the transmitting resonator 506 away from a first end of the transmitting resonator 506 created by the transmitting resonator slit 516. In other words, one-fourth of the wiring length is equal to approximately one-eighth of the wavelength of the high frequency signals transmitted by the electromagnetic resonance coupler 200.

The second end of the first wiring 511 (the end not connected to the transmitting resonator 506) is the first terminal 521.

The reception substrate 502 is placed over the top surface of transmission substrate 501.

Next, the receiving resonator 507 will be discussed.

FIG. 12 is a top view of the receiving resonator 507.

The receiving resonator 507 provided on the reception substrate 502 is wiring having an open loop shape with a portion opened by the receiving resonator slit 517.

Moreover, the receiving resonator 507 is equal in size and shape to the transmitting resonator 506.

The receiving resonator 507 is physically connected to the second wiring 512 and the third wiring 513. It should be noted that the receiving resonator 507 is not required to be physically connected to the second wiring 512 and the third wiring 513, but may be electrically connected thereto.

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The locations of the connection point of the receiving resonator 507 and the second wiring 512 and the connection point of the receiving resonator 507 and the third wiring 513 are symmetrical with respect to the receiving resonator slit 517. More specifically, the first end of the second wiring 512 is connected to the receiving resonator 507 at a position three-eighths of the wiring length of the receiving resonator 507 (three-sixteenths of the operating wavelength) away from a first end of the receiving resonator 507 (created by the receiving resonator slit 517).

Moreover, the first end of the third wiring 513 is connected to the receiving resonator 507 at a position three-eighths of the wiring length of the receiving resonator 507 (three-sixteenths of the operating wavelength) away from the second end of the receiving resonator 507 (created by the receiving resonator slit 517). In other words, the first end of the third wiring 513 is connected to the receiving resonator 507 at a position five-eighths of the wiring length of the receiving resonator 507 (five-sixteenths of the operating wavelength) away from the first end of the receiving resonator 507.

The second end of the second wiring 512 that is not connected to the receiving resonator 507 is the second terminal 522, and the second end of the third wiring 513 that is not connected to the receiving resonator 507 is the third terminal 523.

The transmitting resonator 506 on the transmission substrate 501 and the receiving resonator 507 on the reception substrate 502 are symmetrical about a midpoint of the transmitting resonator 506 and the receiving resonator 507, which is also the center axis of the transmitting resonator 506 and the receiving resonator 507.

It should be noted that, similar to Embodiment 1, the wiring width of the transmitting resonator 506 and the receiving resonator 507 is 0.1 mm. The wiring width of the first wiring 511, the second wiring 512, and the third wiring 513 is 0.1 mm. Moreover, one side of the outer circumference of the transmitting resonator 506 and the receiving resonator 507 wiring is 1.6 mm.

(Operation)

The operating principle and function of the electromagnetic resonance coupler 200 is the same as that of the electromagnetic resonance coupler 100 according to Embodiment 1, and the electromagnetic resonance coupler 200 is capable of performing single-ended to differential conversion on 6.0 GHz high frequency signals.

The high frequency signal (6.0 GHz) inputted from the first terminal 521 is inputted to the transmitting resonator 506 via the first wiring 511 connected to the first connection point, and resonates with the transmitting resonator 506, thereby exciting the electromagnetic field.

When the electromagnetic field in the transmitting resonator 506 is excited, the electromagnetic field in the receiving resonator 507 is also excited. This causes the high frequency signal in the receiving resonator 507 to propagate. Propagated high frequency signals are output from the second terminal 522 and the third terminal 523 via the second wiring 512 and the third wiring 513.

At this time, as was explained in Embodiment 1, signals having a phase difference of 180° are outputted at the second connection point on the receiving resonator 507 at which the second wiring 512 is connected and the third connection point on the receiving resonator 507 at which the third wiring 513 is connected. Moreover, as described in Embodiment 1, the amplitude of the outputted signals is one half the amplitude of the input high frequency signal.

In this way, even with the use of a rectangular resonator, it is possible to realize an electromagnetic resonance coupler

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which converts single-ended signals into differential signals. The electromagnetic resonance coupler **200** operates as a miniaturized single-ended to differential converter, even more miniaturized than when an open ring shaped resonator is used, as is the case in Embodiment 1.

It should be noted that in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **200** as well, it goes without saying that it is possible to insulate the grounds and transmit signals between the transmission substrate **501** and the reception substrate **502**. Moreover, in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **200**, it is of course possible to also convert differential signals into a single-ended signal.

(Additional Comments)

Moreover, ground wiring (the coplanar ground), which indicates a reference potential of the transmitted high frequency signal, may be provided at the periphery of the transmitting resonator and the receiving resonator in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** and the electromagnetic resonance coupler **200**.

Moreover, in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** and the electromagnetic resonance coupler **200**, the midpoint of the second connection point on the receiving resonator at which the second wiring is connected and the third connection point on the receiving resonator at which the third wiring is connected may be connected to ground wiring with wiring or a via.

FIG. **13** shows an example of when a coplanar ground is provided at the periphery of the transmitting resonator **506**.

FIG. **14** shows an example of when a coplanar ground and isolation wiring are provided at the periphery of the receiving resonator **507**.

As FIG. **13** shows, a transmission coplanar ground **536** made of a metal conductor may be provided along the periphery of the transmitting resonator **506** and the first wiring **511**.

Moreover, as FIG. **14** shows, a reception coplanar ground **537** may be provided along the periphery of the receiving resonator **507**, the second wiring **512**, and the third wiring **513**. Material used for the transmission coplanar ground **536** and the reception coplanar ground **537** is, just like the other wiring, gold, but the material used is not limited to gold.

In this way, it is possible to improve the quality of the transmitted high frequency signal by providing a coplanar ground.

Moreover, a configuration in which only one of the transmission coplanar ground **536** and the reception coplanar ground **537** is provided is acceptable.

Moreover, as FIG. **14** shows, isolation wiring **540** may be provided at the midpoint between the second connection point on the receiving resonator **507** at which the second wiring **512** is connected and the third connection point on the receiving resonator **507** at which the third wiring **513** is connected, and may connect to the reception coplanar ground **537** and the receiving resonator **507**.

By providing isolation wiring in this way, it is possible to improve the quality of the high frequency signal input and/or output to and/or from the second wiring **512** and the third wiring **513**.

Moreover, instead of the isolation wiring **540**, ground wiring indicating reference potential may be connected with a via, for example, to the midpoint between the second connection point on the receiving resonator **507** and the third connection point on the receiving resonator **507**.

It should be noted that in the electromagnetic resonance coupler **100** and the electromagnetic resonance coupler **200**, the transmitting resonator and the receiving resonator may be provided on respective surfaces of a single substrate. More specifically, the transmitting resonator and the first wiring

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may be provided on one surface of a substrate, and the receiving resonator, the second wiring, and the third wiring may be provided on the other surface of the substrate.

Hereinbefore the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to an aspect of the present disclosure has been described based on non-limiting and exemplary embodiments.

An electromagnetic resonance coupler which operates as a miniaturized single-ended to differential converter is achievable by implementing one or more of the exemplary embodiments or features disclosed herein. With the electromagnetic resonance coupler according to one non-limiting and exemplary embodiment, it is possible to transmit a signal with substantially low loss according to the nature of the electromagnetic resonance coupler. Moreover, it is possible to insulate both the ground which indicates the reference potential of input signals and the ground which indicates the reference potential of output signals, and transmit signals.

The herein disclosed subject matter is to be considered descriptive and illustrative only, and the appended Claims are of a scope intended to cover and encompass not only the particular embodiment(s) disclosed, but also equivalent structures, methods, and/or uses.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The electromagnetic resonance coupler apparatus according to one or more exemplary embodiments or features disclosed herein can be used as a miniaturized, low-loss high frequency signal distributor and coupler, and is applicable to converters which convert between single-ended signals and differential signals, for example.

The invention claimed is:

1. An electromagnetic resonance coupler for wirelessly transmitting a transmission signal between first resonant wiring and second resonant wiring, the electromagnetic resonance coupler comprising:

- a first planar region;
- a second planar region facing the first planar region;
- the first resonant wiring provided on the first planar region;
- input wiring provided on the first planar region and connected to a first connection point of the first resonant wiring;
- the second resonant wiring provided on the second planar region;
- first output wiring provided on the second planar region and connected to a second connection point of the second resonant wiring;
- second output wiring provided on the second planar region and connected to a third connection point of the second resonant wiring,

wherein:

- the input wiring is wiring to which the transmission signal is inputted,
- the first output wiring and the second output wiring are wiring from which the transmitted transmission signal is outputted,
- the second resonant wiring has an open loop shape having an opening,
- a wiring length **L1** from a first end of the second resonant wiring formed by the opening to the second connection point and a wiring length **L2** from a second end of the second resonant wiring formed by the opening to the third connection point are equal,
- a fourth connection point of the second resonant wiring is connected to ground,

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- the second connection point is positioned between the fourth connection point and the first end of the second resonant wiring formed by the opening,
- the third connection point is positioned between the fourth connection point and the second end of the second resonant wiring formed by the opening, and
- a wiring length L4 from the fourth connection point to the second connection point is shorter than the wiring length L1, and a wiring length L5 from the fourth connection point to the third connection point is shorter than the wiring length L2.
2. The electromagnetic resonance coupler according to claim 1,
- wherein:
- the first resonant wiring has an open loop shape having an opening, and
- the wiring length L1 and the wiring length L2 are 1.5 times as long as a wiring length L3 from a first end of the first resonant wiring formed by the opening to the first connection point.
3. The electromagnetic resonance coupler according to claim 2,
- wherein:
- the wiring length L3 is equal to one quarter of a wiring length of the first resonant wiring,
- the wiring length L1 is equal to three-eighths of a wiring length of the second resonant wiring, and
- the wiring length L2 is equal to three-eighths of the wiring length of the second resonant wiring.
4. The electromagnetic resonance coupler according to claim 1,

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wherein when the transmission signal is inputted to the electromagnetic resonance coupler, an electrical energy level at the second connection point and the third connection point is half an electrical energy level at a position on the second resonant wiring overlapping the first connection point.

5. The electromagnetic resonance coupler according to claim 1,

wherein when viewed in a direction perpendicular to a main surface of the first planar region, the first resonant wiring and the second resonant wiring are symmetric about a point and have matching contours.

6. The electromagnetic resonance coupler according to claim 1,

wherein the wiring length L4 and the wiring length L5 are equal.

7. The electromagnetic resonance coupler according to claim 1,

wherein a straight line distance D1 from the opening of the second resonant wiring to the fourth connection point is shorter than a straight line distance D2 from the opening of the second resonant wiring to the second connection point.

8. The electromagnetic resonance coupler according to claim 7,

wherein the straight line distance D1 from the opening of the second resonant wiring to the fourth connection point is shorter than a straight line distance D3 from the opening of the second resonant wiring to the third connection point.

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